In the Specification

Amend the specification as follows:

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7 as follows:

More preferably, the second grid pattern period ~~p is~~ _p is_ defined by the expression:

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 9 as follows:

A general flowchart ~~100~~ of the overlay error extraction method that we have examined in the example above, is shown in Fig. 14. In the first step 102, the target image is scanned in the x- and y-directions to produce a digitized target image I (x, y) with a pixel size much smaller than the magnified sub-grid period M x p. The (x, y) scanned intensities are than integrated 104 into intensities I_n (x) and I_m (y). The integrated intensities are then separated 106 into single frame intensities I_{nm} (x) and I_{nm} (y). The single frame intensities are then aligned 108 using reference signals I_R (x) and I_R (y) common to each target frame. The I_F (x) and I_F (y) intensities are then fit 110 to sinusoids in each frame to determine the parameters A, B, d and s, where parameter d is the ratio of pixel size c to sub-grid period p and parameter s measures the center of the sinusoidal patterns.